

said, "Go back while you still can." The stories Mosher wanted to tell were rich and ready and far from Hollywood and Vine. "I cut myself off from all my material before I understood it well enough to write about it," Mosher said. They headed home; Mosher to write, Phillis to teach. "We knew right away we had found a gold mine of stories," Mosher said. "And we found out nobody had written them. I couldn't believe it. It took me 15 years or so to begin to figure out how to do it."

Much of his first novel, "Disappearances," was written in the library/opera house in Derby Line, a granite and brick building that straddles the U.S.-Canada border. Mosher would place half his chair in the U.S., and half in the foreign country, when he wrote. He sometimes got such a kick from his own work, he created a disturbance. Or so the librarian thought. "I would burst into gales of laughter with each new outrageous passage," Mosher recalled. "'Mr. Mosher,' he was warned, if you can't control yourself, we will have to ask you to leave.'"

KEEP THE KIDS OUT OF THE MILL

Talking in hushed library tones in the dual nation reading room where he wrote *Disappearances*, Mosher said he was amusing himself during the writing of the book. "But I was also in a state of desperation," he said. "There's a degree of desperation about the writing."

Decades later, Mosher is amused by the response to "Disappearances" of Wallace Stegner, the famous novelist who lived in Greensboro. Stegner read Mosher's book to write a possible blurb for the cover.

Stegner, the story goes, didn't get too far before crumpling up the manuscript and throwing it in the fire, announcing: "This book is a hymn to irresponsibility."

"I didn't know enough to use it," Mosher said.

Mosher drove us past the place in Irasburg that would serve as a springboard for perhaps his best known story: the house where a black minister was living in the summer of 1968, when his home was shot at. The racial shooting, which came to be called the Irasburg Affair, informed Mosher's 1989 novel, "A Stranger in the Kingdom."

We visited, too, a place that will figure in the book Mosher is writing. His forthcoming novel also has a black man as a central character: Alexander Twilight, believed to be the first black person in the country to graduate from college (Middlebury, 1823).

We walked outside the wonderful stone schoolhouse, reminiscent of the Middlebury campus, Twilight designed and built on a quiet plateau in Brownington. Twilight was principal of the school, and a minister and state legislator.

"He had a dream," Mosher said of Twilight.

"There's no doubt about it."

When the Mosheres started teaching in Orleans, they were instructed by the district superintendent to "keep the kids out of the mill." The administrator was referring to the Ethan Allen furniture factory, which appears in Mosher's novels as American Heritage.

Mosher, whose first apartment was next to the mill, said he heard the words "keep the kids out of the mill; keep the kids out of the mill" rise in rhythmic chant from the plant's vents outside his window.

It is unlikely the long-ago superintendent, issuing that directive, had in mind the manner by which Mosher would fulfill the mandate. But any Kingdom kid who has found his way to Mosher's novels, is transported to a place that is true to the mill, and the river nearby, yet worlds apart and away.

TRIBUTE TO JACK WILLIAMS

Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Jack Williams of Boston, MA. For the past 30 years, Jack, a well-respected veteran news anchor, has hosted WBZ-TV's "Wednesday's Child", the longest-running adoptive-family-recruitment TV feature in the Nation. Since "Wednesday's Child" first aired on WBZ in 1981, Jack Williams has used the weekly news segment to tell the story of more than 1,000 special needs children who are in need of loving, safe and permanent homes. Thanks to Jack's effort, many of these children have found "forever" homes with viewers of the weekly segment.

Jack Williams has used his notoriety and public platform to provide an invaluable service that has changed the lives of so many children and their adoptive parents. "Wednesday's Child" is backed by the Endowment for Wednesday's Child, an exemplary nonprofit with very little overhead and no employees. In fact, Jack and Marcie are the sole employees of the Endowment for Wednesday's Child; they have never drawn a salary and run the foundation out of a home office.

The Endowment for "Wednesday's Child" is supported by individual and corporate donations including Wendy's Restaurants, as well as Volvo, which donates a vehicle for the "Win a Volvo, Help 'Wednesday's Children'" campaign. The endowment has raised and donated millions to worthy nonprofits that assist with special needs adoptions. Among these are the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange and group homes including the Walker Home, St. Ann's Home in Methuen and the Italian Home for Children in Jamaica Plain.

I also thank WBZ-TV for being exemplary stewards of the public airwaves in allowing Jack to use his position for such a noble cause.

On November 6, the Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange, other Wednesday's Child beneficiaries and Wednesday's Child "alumni" will gather to honor Jack Williams' 30 years of service to Massachusetts' foster children in need of permanent homes. I join them in congratulating Jack and Marcie and all those who support Wednesday's Child for their hard work and generosity.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL DAVID J. BIXLER

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I honor Corporal David J. Bixler for his courage, heroism and selfless dedication to the U.S. Army and his fellow soldiers.

CPL David J. Bixler of Harrison, AR, recently received the United Service Organizations Soldier of the Year Award for distinguishing himself both on the battlefield and during his recovery

from the wounds he received from his actions during a firefight in the Arghandab River Valley of Afghanistan.

On September 30, 2010, Corporal Bixler and his platoon conducted a patrol in the volatile and dangerous region to talk with some local elders. During the mission, Corporal Bixler was assigned a small team of Afghan National Army soldiers to lead. The patrol came under heavy enemy fire forcing the unit to turn back to safety.

Corporal Bixler's following actions are heroic and inspiring. As the patrol turned around, one of the Afghan Army partners stepped outside of the cleared path and Corporal Bixler, recognizing the danger ran after the Afghan soldier. As he attempted to shove the soldier back onto the cleared path, he detonated an IED that caused extensive damage to his body. Through this courageous and selfless action, he saved the life of the Afghan soldier and the other members of his patrol. For his heroism, he was awarded the Silver Star.

Throughout his difficult recovery at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Corporal Bixler has been an inspiration to those around him and to his unit that continues its service overseas.

CPL David Bixler has not only met the criteria for the Soldier of the Year Award, but eclipsed it. Words cannot express how proud I am of Corporal Bixler and his valor and bravery now how grateful I am for his service. We thank him, and all our servicemen and women, for their sacrifice and efforts on our behalf.●

AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

• Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, today I wish to commend the American Academy of Arts and Sciences on the occasion of the institution's October 1, 2011, induction ceremony for the 231st class of members in Cambridge, MA. These 211 new members earned election to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences for extraordinary individual achievement and are among the world's most influential artists, scientists, scholars, authors, and institutional leaders. In accepting membership into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, these individuals agreed to contribute their talents, experience, and knowledge to help the academy advance the Nation's social welfare.

The American Academy of Arts and Sciences is an august, quintessentially American institution founded by Massachusetts' own John Adams and other scholar-patriots during our Nation's struggle for independence. The American Academy of Arts and Sciences is currently chaired by Louis W. Cabot and led by President Leslie C. Berlowitz and is a vital center of knowledge focused on the great challenges and concerns of the day, from science and technology policy to global security; social policy to the humanities; and culture, and education.